

Big Bend National Park 2005 Annual Report

Prepared by the James E. 'Bud' Smith Plant Materials Center

Introduction

The original agreement with Big Bend National Park and the James E. 'Bud' Smith Plant Materials Center (PMC) was developed and signed in 1989. Early agreements involve seed and/or plant collection at the Park and seed increase at the PMC. Materials produced were used for roadside revegetation within the park. Plant materials (seeds) were drilled and/or broadcast along road shoulders following construction. The first agreement was completed in 1993. The second agreement scheduled for completion in 1997 was modified to incorporate an additional study to look at techniques for road slope revegetation. In 1998 an additional agreement was put into place to provide materials for the next phase of road construction. This agreement originally scheduled from 1998 - 2001 was amended in 1999 and placed on hold through 2001, pending the rescheduling of construction activities. Currently there are no active agreements targeting roadside revegetation projects.

In 2001 a new agreement was prepared between the Park and PMC addressing the need to revegetate areas after removal of invasive plants. The park has funded this agreement from 2001 thru 2005.

Accomplishments:

Since 1989 nine different species have been produced for the park and three species evaluated to determine production and propagation techniques.

At the end of 2005, the park had received a total of 2742 bulk pounds of seed totaling 1188 PLS lbs.

Seed Production and Available Inventory

Common Name	Area(ac)	2005 Prod./Lbs *	PLS Inventory On Hand
Alkali sacaton	-	-	329.0
Sideoats grama	-	-	105.0
Green sprangletop	-	-	114.0
Cane bluestem	.50	58.5	22.0
Showy menodora	.50	-	118.00
Whiplash pappusgrass	increase	.55	increase
Chino grama	.75	2.5	15.0
Tobosa	.10	.75	increase
Limoncillo	-	-	-

* bulk material wt.

Conclusion:

At the end of FY 2005 seed production fields being maintained and harvested included cane bluestem, Chino grama, tobosagrass, and whiplash pappusgrass. The agreement signed in 2001 addressing post weed control revegetation has been modified to run into 2006.